

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PORT A 00309 252030Z
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EA-09 ISO-00 SMI-01 IO-13 L-03 CEQ-01
EPA-04 INT-05 COME-00 PA-02 PRS-01 /056 W
-----252205Z 041687 /70

R 252000Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3905
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 0309
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SENV, SOPN, HA
SUBJECT: BENGAL TIGER NOT ENDANGERED IN HAITI

1. AS DEPT AWARE, MANY AMERICAN WILDLIFE PROTECTION GROUPS HAVE EXPRESSED TO EMBASSY AND TO GOH THEIR STRONG OBJECTIONS TO ANNOUNCED "FIGHT TO FINISH" COMBAT IN PORT-AU-PRINCE STADIUM BETWEEN BENGAL TIGER AND JAPANESE BLACK-BELT KARATE EXPERT YAMAMOTO. DEGREE OF HAITIAN GOVERNMENT APPROVAL FOR THIS SPECTACULAR HAS BEEN UNCLEAR. LOCAL RADIO STATIONS AND OTHER MEDIA HAVE WAGED CAMPAIGN TO HAVE EVENT CANCELLED, AND ON JAN 11 INFORMATION MINISTER ISSUED STATEMENT SHARPLY DENYING THAT GOVERNMENT APPROVAL HAD BEEN REQUESTED, BUT NOT EXPLICITLY RULING OUT CONTEST. PROSPECTS FOR MATCH APPEARED TO HAVE REVIVED, HOWEVER, ON BASIS OF AP INTERVIEW OVER WEEKEND WITH JAPANESE PROMOTER YOSHIO KOU, WHO DECLARED THAT CONTEST WAS DEFINITELY ON FOR FEB 5.

2. ON LEARNING THIS NEWS, AMBASSADOR WROTE FOREIGN MINISTER BRUTUS ON JAN 24, SEEKING CLARIFICATION OF GOH POSITION ON MATTER, NOTING THAT WE HAD BEEN ADVISING INTERESTED AMERICANS THAT EVENT WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE, AND OBSERVING THAT IF MATCH WERE PERMITTED GOH WOULD BE EXPOSED TO SEVERE CRITICISM IN US.

3. ON JAN 25 FOREIGN MINISTER BRUTUS INFORMED US THAT NO
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GOVERNMENT APPROVAL HAD EVER BEEN GRANTED AND THAT EVENT WOULD DEFINITELY NOT BE PERMITTED TO TAKE PLACE. BRUTUS ACKNOWLEDGED SERIOUS IMAGE PROBLEMS THAT WOULD HAVE RESULTED HAD MATCH GONE FORWARD AND CONCEDED THERE HAD BEEN SOME CONFUSION IN THE WAY MATTER HAD BEEN HANDLED. (PRESIDENT DUVALIER'S KARATE TEACHER HAS BEEN ACTIVELY PROMOTING MATCH.) LATEST REPORT IS THAT BENGAL TIGER IS

DUE TO ARRIVE HERE LATER TODAY BY AIR FRANCE. JAPANESE
PROMOTER WILL BE ADVISED TO HAVE TIGER PROMPTLY SHIPPED OUT
BY NEXT AVAILABLE MEANS OF CONVEYANCE. THIS PARTICULAR
BENGAL TIGER, AT LEAST, NO LONGER SEEMS ENDANGERED. PROSPECTS
FOR YAMAMOTO UNKNOWN.
ISHAM

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 25-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: PFOR, SENV, SOPN, HA
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